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(Original Signature of Member)

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish the Great Lakes Protection and Restoration Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. EHLERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

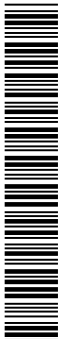
A BILL

To establish the Great Lakes Protection and Restoration
Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Protection
5 and Restoration Committee Act”.



1 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**
2 **COMMITTEE.**

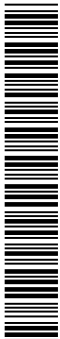
3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
4 mittee to be known as the “Great Lakes Protection and
5 Restoration Committee” (hereinafter referred to in this
6 section as the “Committee”).

7 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Committee is to
8 conduct a study and report on programs established and
9 carried out to achieve restoration goals for the Great
10 Lakes prepared by the Governors of Great Lakes States
11 and to make recommendations for prioritization of such
12 goals, legislation and funding to achieve such goals, and
13 improvement of coordination among programs and govern-
14 ments with respect to such goals.

15 (c) STUDY AND REPORT.—

16 (1) STUDY.—The Committee shall conduct a
17 study, based on restoration goals for the Great
18 Lakes prepared by the Governors of Great Lakes
19 States, to identify the best methods by which to pro-
20 tect and restore the Great Lakes. The study shall
21 include—

22 (A) an analysis of Federal and State fund-
23 ing for the 10-year period ending on the date
24 of the enactment of this Act for programs es-
25 tablished and carried out to achieve the restora-



1 tion goals, including an assessment of the suc-
2 cess of the programs; and

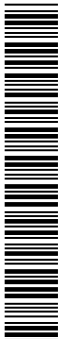
3 (B) an analysis of the expected accomplish-
4 ments of such programs for the 10-year period
5 beginning on the date of the enactment of this
6 Act based on existing funding levels for the pro-
7 grams.

8 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the initial meeting of the Committee under
10 subsection (e)(1), the Committee shall submit to the
11 President, Congress, and the Governor of each Great
12 Lakes State, and make available to the national
13 Government of Canada and the Premiers of the
14 Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, a report that
15 includes—

16 (A) the results of the study, including a
17 detailed statement of the findings and conclu-
18 sions of the Committee;

19 (B) recommendations for the prioritization
20 of the restoration goals for the Great Lakes
21 prepared by the Governors of the Great Lakes
22 States;

23 (C) specific benchmarks for the 10-year
24 period beginning on the date of the enactment



1 of this Act to measure the achievement of such
2 restoration goals;

3 (D) recommendations for proposed Federal
4 and State legislation for obtaining additional
5 authority and funding as necessary to achieve
6 such restoration goals;

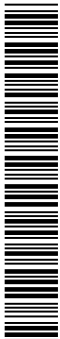
7 (E) recommendations for methods to im-
8 prove coordination among existing Federal,
9 State, local, and non-governmental programs
10 established to achieve the restoration goals pre-
11 pared by the Governors of the Great Lakes
12 States; and

13 (F) recommendations for methods to im-
14 prove coordination between Federal, State, and
15 local programs in the United States and the na-
16 tional Government of Canada and the Govern-
17 ments of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec
18 with respect to environmental protection and
19 restoration activities in the Great Lakes.

20 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

21 (1) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
22 be composed of 25 voting members, of whom—

23 (A) 8 members shall be the Governors of
24 the Great Lakes States (or designees of the
25 Governors);



1 (B) 13 members shall be appointed by the
2 President, of whom—

3 (i) 1 member shall be a representative
4 of the Department of the Interior;

5 (ii) 1 member shall be a representa-
6 tive of the Corps of Engineers;

7 (iii) 1 member shall be a representa-
8 tive of the Great Lakes National Program
9 Office of the Environmental Protection
10 Agency;

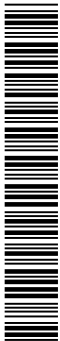
11 (iv) 1 member shall be a representa-
12 tive of the National Oceanic and Atmos-
13 pheric Administration;

14 (v) 1 member shall be a representative
15 of the Department of Agriculture; and

16 (vi) 8 members shall be chief execu-
17 tives of cities, counties, or municipalities in
18 the Great Lakes Region, of whom 1 mem-
19 ber shall be from each Great Lakes State;

20 (C) 1 member shall be appointed by the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives;

22 (D) 1 member shall be appointed by the
23 minority leader of the House of Representa-
24 tives;



1 (E) 1 member shall be appointed by the
2 President pro tempore of the Senate; and

3 (F) 1 member shall be appointed by the
4 minority leader of the Senate.

5 (2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee
6 shall include 10 nonvoting members appointed by
7 the President, of whom—

8 (A) 2 members shall be representatives of
9 the environmental community;

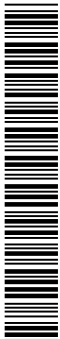
10 (B) 2 members shall be representatives of
11 industry;

12 (C) 2 members shall be representatives of
13 the scientific community with expertise on the
14 environmental conditions of the Great Lakes;

15 (D) 2 members shall be representatives of
16 Indian tribes located in the Great Lakes Re-
17 gion;

18 (E) 1 member shall be a United States
19 Commissioner of the Great Lakes Fishery Com-
20 mission appointed under section 3(a)(1) of the
21 Great Lakes Fishery Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.
22 932(a)(1)); and

23 (F) 1 member shall be the Chair of the
24 United States Section of the International Joint



1 Commission established by the Boundary Wa-
2 ters Treaty of 1909.

3 (3) NONVOTING OBSERVERS.—The Committee
4 may include nonvoting observers, including—

5 (A) the Premiers of the Canadian Prov-
6 inces of Ontario and Quebec;

7 (B) a representative of the national Gov-
8 ernment of Canada; and

9 (C) a representative of the Department of
10 State.

11 (4) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—The appointment
12 of each member of the Committee shall be made not
13 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
14 of this Act.

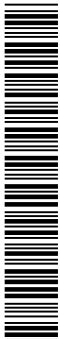
15 (5) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for
16 the life of the Committee.

17 (6) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the
18 Committee—

19 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Com-
20 mittee; and

21 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as
22 the original appointment was made.

23 (7) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—
24 The Committee shall select a Chairperson from
25 among the members of the Committee described in



1 paragraph (1)(A) and a Vice Chairperson from
2 among the members of the Committee appointed
3 under clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(B).

4 (8) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Com-
5 mittee shall serve without pay.

6 (9) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
7 Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
8 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance
9 with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United
10 States Code.

11 (e) MEETINGS.—

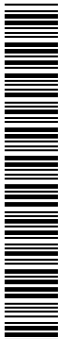
12 (1) INITIAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
13 date on which all members of the Committee have
14 been appointed, the Committee shall hold the initial
15 meeting of the Committee.

16 (2) SUBSEQUENT.—The Committee shall meet
17 at the call of the Chairperson.

18 (3) QUORUM.—A majority of the voting mem-
19 bers of the Committee described in subsection (d)(1)
20 shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of
21 members may hold hearings.

22 (f) POWERS.—

23 (1) HEARINGS.—The Committee may hold
24 hearings, meet and act, take testimony, and receive



1 evidence as the Committee considers advisable to
2 carry out this Act.

3 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Committee may
5 secure directly from a Federal agency such in-
6 formation as the Committee considers necessary
7 to carry out this Act.

8 (B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On re-
9 quest of the Chairperson of the Committee, the
10 head of the agency shall provide the informa-
11 tion to the Committee.

12 (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Committee may
13 use the United States mails in the same manner and
14 under the same conditions as other agencies of the
15 Federal Government.

16 (4) GIFTS.—The Committee may accept, use,
17 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-
18 erty.

19 (g) STAFF.—

20 (1) APPOINTMENT.—

21 (A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Com-
22 mittee may appoint and terminate an executive
23 director.

24 (B) OTHER STAFF.—The Chairperson of
25 the Committee may appoint and terminate such



1 other additional personnel as are necessary to
2 enable the Committee to perform the duties of
3 the Committee.

4 (2) COMPENSATION.—

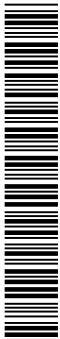
5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
6 subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Com-
7 mittee may fix the compensation of the execu-
8 tive director and other personnel without regard
9 to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
10 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
11 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
12 eral Schedule pay rates.

13 (B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of
14 pay for the executive director and other per-
15 sonnel shall not exceed the rate payable for
16 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
17 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

18 (3) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EM-
19 PLOYEES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the
21 Federal Government may be detailed to the
22 Committee without reimbursement.

23 (B) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of
24 the employee shall be without interruption or
25 loss of civil service status or privilege.



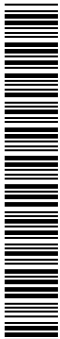
1 (4) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-
2 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-
3 mittee may procure temporary and intermittent serv-
4 ices in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5,
5 United States Code, at rates for individuals that do
6 not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
7 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive
8 Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

9 (h) TERMINATION.—The Committee shall terminate
10 90 days after the date on which the Committee submits
11 the report of the Committee under subsection (c)(2).

12 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

13 (1) GREAT LAKES.—The term “Great Lakes”
14 means Lake Erie, Lake Huron (including Lake
15 Saint Clair), Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario, Lake
16 Superior, and the connecting channels of those
17 lakes, including the Saint Mary’s River, the Saint
18 Clair River, the Detroit River, and the Saint Law-
19 rence River to the Canadian border.

20 (2) GREAT LAKES STATE.—The term “Great
21 Lakes State” means each of the States of Illinois,
22 Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, New York,
23 Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.



1 (3) GREAT LAKES REGION.—The term “Great
2 Lakes region” means the region comprised of the
3 Great Lakes States.

4 (4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
5 has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
6 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance
7 Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

8 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
10 appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for
11 fiscal year 2005.

12 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
13 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
14 paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available
15 until the date of termination of the Committee under
16 subsection (h).

